

MODIFICATION OF BOUNTY LAND LAW.

MARCH 3, 1851.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr. N. EVANS, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Joshua A. Pearson, and thirty-five others, praying a modification of the bounty land law of September, 1850, beg leave to report:*

That they have considered the subject embraced in the petition, and the insignificant amount of the lowest grade of bounty provided by that law; and, looking upon the gratuities offered by that act as having been graduated as nearly in proportion to the term of service rendered as is practicable in providing for services so varied, and for so numerous a class of persons, your committee cannot recommend any alteration in the provisions of the law of 1850, so as to increase the quantity of land awarded to any class of services provided for.

Ordinarily, bounty land for military services has been offered as an inducement to enter into the military service of the country, and constituted a part of the consideration for which services were rendered. But the law of 1850 embraces only such persons as served for short periods without the promise of land, and who received the full consideration for which they entered the service at the close of the term for which they served. Your committee know of no more equitable mode of graduating the amount of gratuity offered by government for services rendered, than that of proportioning it to the term of service; and believing that if it is proper to increase the bounty offered for a service of one month, it would also be proper to increase that provided for six months, and for a longer period, and as they are not prepared to recommend an increase to all classes embraced in the law, they recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be not granted.

